

REPORT

OF

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 9th July 1898.

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.					
Weekly.					
1	"Bangavasi" ...	Calcutta ...	25,000		
2	"Basumati" ...	Ditto ...	15,000		
3	"Hitaishi" ...	Ditto ...	800	5th July, 1898.	
4	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto ...	About 4,000	1st ditto.	
5	"Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto ...	1,800	1st ditto.	
6	"Samay" ...	Ditto ...	3,000	1st ditto.	
7	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto ...	3,000	2nd ditto.	
8	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto ...	1,000	4th ditto.	
9	"Sulabh Samachar" ...	Ditto ...	.....	
Daily.					
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika" ...	Ditto ...	200		
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika." ...	Ditto ...	1,000	2nd to 5th July, 1898.	
3	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto ...	2,000		
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	200	1st, 2nd, and 4th to 7th July, 1898.	
HINDI.					
Fortnightly.					
1	"Marwari Gazette" ...	Ditto ...	400		
Weekly.					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto ...	2,000		
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto ...	6,500	4th July, 1898.	
Daily.					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto ...	.....	28th to 30th June and 1st, 2nd and 4th July, 1898.	
PERSIAN.					
Weekly.					
1	"Hablul Mateen" ...	Ditto ...	500	27th June and 4th July, 1898.	
2	"Mefta-hur-safar" ...	Ditto ...	.....	1st July, 1898.	
URDU.					
Weekly.					
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide." ...	Ditto ...	320	30th June, 1898.	
2	"General and Gauharisfi" ...	Ditto ...	330	30th ditto.	
Tri-weekly.					
1	"Nusrat-ul-Islam" ...	Ditto ...	.....	
BENGALI.					
Fortnightly.					
1	"Pallivasi" ...	Kalna ...	475		
Weekly.					
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura ...	572	1st July, 1898.	
2	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan ...	240	28th June, 1898.	
3	"Chinsura Bartavaha" ...	Chinsura ...	400	3rd July, 1898.	
4	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	1,350	1st ditto.	
BENGALI.					
Weekly.					
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad ...	655	29th June, 1898.	
2	"Pratihar" ...	Ditto ...	603	1st July, 1898.	

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
	URIYA. <i>Weekly.</i>	ORISSA DIVISION.			
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....	11th May, 1898	This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.
2	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	150	12th ditto.	
3	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto ...	309	11th ditto.	
4	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack ...	400	7th ditto.	
	HINDI. <i>Monthly.</i>	PATNA DIVISION.			
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur ...	About 600	20th June, 1898.	
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Aryavarta" ...	Dinapur ...	1,000		
	URDU. <i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Al Punch" ...	Bankipur ...	500	1st July, 1898.	
2	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya ...	400		
	BENGALI. <i>Weekly.</i>	RAJSHAHI DIVISION.			
1	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	243	29th June, 1898.	This paper is not regularly published for want of type.
2	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur ...	180	.....
	HINDI. <i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masih Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	.....	
	BENGALI. <i>Fortnightly.</i>	DACCA DIVISION.			
1	"Faridpur Hitaishini" ...	Faridpur ...	755	28th June, 1898.	
2	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	315	28th ditto.	
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Barisal Hitaishi" ...	Barisal ...	300	3rd July, 1898.	
2	"Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	900		
3	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	2,400	3rd July, 1898.	
4	"Sanjay" ...	Faridpur ...	.....	
5	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Dacca ...	About 500	28th June, 1898.	
	ENGLISH AND BENGALI. <i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	500	4th July, 1898.	
	BENGALI. <i>Fortnightly.</i>	CHITTAGONG DIVISION.			
1	"Tripura Hitaishi" ...	Comilla ...	450	1st fortnight of <i>Ashar</i> , 1305 B.S.	
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Jyoti" ...	Chittagong ...	.....	30th June, 1898.	
2	"Sansodhini" ...	Ditto ...	120	29th ditto.	
	BENGALI. <i>Fortnightly.</i>	ASSAM.			
1	"Paridarsak" ...	Sylhet ...	.....	
2	"Silchar" ...	Silchar, Cachar ...	340		

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a) Police.

The *Al Punch* of the 1st July says that, as in the North-Western Provinces, carriages should be employed for the conveyance of under-trial prisoners from the *hajut* to the criminal courts. It has been seen that many of these accused persons are declared innocent by criminal tribunals and as being proceeded against by wicked neighbours simply to be harrassed. To such innocent people it is unbearable to have to walk to and from the courts every day during trial, under police custody, within the sight of their friends and foes.

AL PUNCH,
July 1st, 1898.

Treatment of under-trial prisoners.

2. Referring to the cow-killing affair at Sankarpur in the Jessore district (R. N. P., 18th June, 1898, para. 6), a correspondent of the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 1st July writes as follows:—

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
July 1st, 1898

The *Bangavasi* of the 18th June says that there was a riot in connection with the killing of a cow at Sankarpur. Will the *Bangavasi* tell us when, where, and between whom did the riot take place?

O kind-hearted editors! When your heart bleeds so much for a cow, do you not feel for a moment for the human being whom Lalit Babu sought to kill in broad daylight?

The *Korbani* took place on the 2nd May at Sankarpur, where there is no Hindu population. On the 17th May the conductors of the ceremony were taken to the Chanehra Rajbari, assaulted and fined Rs. 200 by Lalit Babu.

We beseech the kind Government to have the case tried by a European and not by a Muhammadan or Hindu Magistrate. Mr. Halifax, the present District Magistrate of Jessore may well take up the case himself.

3. Speaking of the settlement which the zamindars in the Murshidabad district are making of the *chaukidari chakran* lands, the *Pratihar* of the 1st July writes as follows:—

PRATIKAR,
July 1st, 1898.

The settlement of *chaukidari chakran* lands in the Murshidabad district.

We regret to say that certain zamindars are not making a settlement of the *chaukidari chakran* lands with the *chaukidars*, even when the latter are willing to pay proper rent. It is the month of *Ashar*, the sowing time, and some of the zamindars are about to deprive the *chaukidars* of the lands which they had not only tilled for four or five months, but had also profusely manured in the hope of getting a bumper crop. The salaries which the *chaukidars* will get will be too small for their wants, and they will therefore be ruined if they lose their claim on the *chakran* lands. We are glad that the Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad, Raja Ranjit Sing Bahadur, Raja Asutosh Nath and Maharaja Manindra Chandra have ordered a portion of their *chakran* lands to be settled with the *chaukidars*, although they will by so doing lose the *nazar* which settlement with others would have brought them. The Nawab Bahadur has earned the gratitude of the public by settling half his *chakran* lands with the *chaukidars* who held them before.

The action of certain small landholders in this connection is blameworthy. The zamindars of Salar ought to take the case of the *chaukidars* into their favourable consideration. To deprive the poor *chaukidars* of their lands in an advanced agricultural month like *Ashar* is warranted neither by the code of religion nor by the code of justice. We are extremely glad that the attention of our able District Magistrate has been drawn to this matter.

4. The *Hitavadi* of the 1st July writes that a head constable and four constables belonging to the Serampore Police were lately prosecuted for wrongfully confining Babu Kanti Charan Bhattacharyya, nephew of Babu Narayan Chandra Bhattacharyya, Assistant Bengali Translator to Government. The complainant has withdrawn the case on the accused tendering an apology. This practice of offering apologies seems to be in the ascendant now-a-days. In Calcutta, not long ago, some police officers trespassed into the house of

The police escaping by apologising—the Serampore case.

HITAVADI,
July 1st, 1898.

Babu Giris Chandra Mukharji, Head-clerk of the Calcutta University, and thrashed him. They were prosecuted, but were pardoned on tendering an apology. We do not know that such charity and forgiveness are not a proof of mental weakness, worthlessness and cowardice. It is our belief that such forgiveness does not raise a man in the estimation of the public.

TRIPURA HITAISHI,
1st fortnight of
Ashar, 1305B.S.

5. Referring to a case in which a student of the Victoria School was arrested and handcuffed by the police in the Comilla Sessions Court for having beaten a constable who had given him a push, the *Tripura Hitaishi* for the first fortnight of *Ashar*, 1305B.S., says:—The Sessions Judge did well to try the offender summarily and fine him Rs. 20, as otherwise he would have been put to greater indignities by the police. Only robbers, murderers, absconders from justice, &c., require to be handcuffed: it is not civilised government to handcuff a body who has struck a constable with an umbrella in a sudden fit of anger. It is cowardice to put handcuffs on everybody and on every occasion.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,
June 28th, 1898.

6. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* of the 28th June complains of the conduct of the Bench Magistrates of Bhanga in the Faridpur district. They have been invested with the power of making local enquiries into criminal cases. But they demand unusually heavy allowances from the parties concerned for making such enquiries. They extorted such high fees as the following in several cases:—

- (1) Rs. 15 for going to Mochua, a place ten miles from Bhanga, to make an enquiry, unasked by the parties, in the case of *Adudhali versus Govinda Chandra Chandra*.
- (2) Rs. 17 for making an enquiry in Kajipara, seven miles from Bhanga.
- (3) Rs. 18 for an enquiry in Domrakandi, a neighbouring village.
- (4) Rs. 15 for making an enquiry into the case of *Divya Charan Kapali versus Kadam Shaikh*.
- (5) Rs. 32 for an enquiry into the case of *Adhar Mandal versus Brajabala* and others.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI.

7. The same paper complains that the Revenue authorities of Faridpur have ordered that no deposit of land revenue shall be accepted unless it is shown in the *chalan* that the road-cess has been paid up in full. This is as much as to place road-cess collection on the same footing with the collection of the land revenue. The proposed arrangement will prove a great hardship to land-owners. According to the existing rule a *mahal* is declared free from all charges if road-cess is deposited within thirty days from the sale of the *mahal* for unpaid road-cess.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI.

8. The same paper complains of the existing law relating to the mutation of names, by virtue of which everyone of a number of owners of a number of joint estates is required to submit separate applications and *mukhtarnamas*. Thus, if a person dies leaving ten joint estates to six heirs, each of these six heirs will have to file separate applications and *mukhtarnamas* and pay court-fee aggregating to Rs. 60. This is a heavy burden.

The Commissioner of the Dacca Division has issued a circular, by virtue of which an applicant for mutation of names shall not be made acquainted with the explanation which is furnished by the record-keeper as to whether the application should be granted or not. The applicant will thus be deprived of the right of defending his case, and the record-keeper's explanation will be all that will be required for the purpose of granting or rejecting his application.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI.

9. Bhuban Mohan Chakravarti of Faridpur complains against Babu Kaliprasanna Sarkar, a local Deputy Magistrate. It appears that his son-in-law, Babu Ramanath Ghosh is the Manager of the "Sanjay" Press. The correspondent was a compositor in that press. The press employes put up in Kaliprasanna Babu's house and get

lodging and boarding for Rs. 3 each; the correspondent got his pay for the first month in full, but for the subsequent months not regularly. The Manager assured him that his father-in-law would pay him, but he did not. The correspondent was appointed by Kaliprasanna Babu and he proposes to sue him for his pay.

10. The Subdivisional Officer of Ranaghat, writes the *Samay* of the 1st July, has ordered that no witness shall enter his court with country shoes on. He openly says in court that he has no objection to European shoes.

11. The *Hitaishi* of the 5th July says that colour must account for the exceedingly light punishment inflicted on the European accused in the Bombay obscene literature case. He has been fined only Rs. 500, though a single copy of one of his offending books sold for Rs. 300. Several Bengali booksellers have had to go to jail for a similar offence.

SAMAY,
July 1st, 1898.

HITAISHI,
July 5th, 1898.

(d)—Education.

12. The *Jyoti* of the 30th June writes that the Commissioner of the Chittagong Division has advised the Chittagong District Board to curtail its grants to the Middle-English and Middle-Vernacular schools. Most of the school buildings have been destroyed by the cyclone, and the late Commissioner applied to the Government for a grant of Rs. 6,000 for their repair. But instead of an additional grant comes the order for the curtailment of the grants that already are sanctioned. It is to be hoped that the authorities will reconsider their proposal.

13. The *Sanjivani* of the 2nd July is glad that Babu Khirod Chandra Rai Chaudhuri, M.A., Head-master of the Hooghly Collegiate School has been appointed to officiate as Principal of the College during the absence, on leave, of Mr. Billing. This is the first promotion of its kind. There is no doubt that Babu Khirod Chandra will manage the College better than Mr. Billing.

JYOTI,
June 30th, 1898.

SANJIVANI,
July 2nd, 1898.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

14. The *Sanjivani* of the 2nd July says that the Calcutta Municipality is about to raise a loan of thirty lakhs, at 5 per cent. per annum, for some permanent works, the exact nature of which has not been stated to the public. The municipality is already in debt to the amount of two crores and twenty-five thousand rupees, for which nine lakhs have to be paid every year as interest. The debt is increasing because the income raised by the rate-payers is spent extravagantly by the Executive, while the Commissioners do not exercise a proper control over the expenditure.

It is the ratepayers who will have to pay off the debt by paying taxes at a higher rate than at present. When the proposed Municipal Bill will become law, the Executive will be simply irresistible, and nobody can say what will then happen.

SANJIVANI,
July 2nd, 1898.

(g)—Railways and communications, including Canals and Irrigation.

15. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 29th June makes the following complaints against the management of the Nalhati-Azimganj Railway:—

1. The line has not been fenced in though it is now three years that the management has passed into the hands of the East Indian Railway Company. A large number of cattle are run over by passing trains for want of a fencing.

2. Two trains meet at the Nalhati station at night, and how dangerous it is to cross the lines at that time in order to get into the train for Azimganj can only be realised by those who have had to do this. Women and children have to cross the lines in front of an engine. While an over-bridge has been erected at a considerable cost at the Azimganj station, for which there is no necessity, there is no such bridge at Nalhati. The Company may easily bring the Azimganj bridge over to Nalhati.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
June 29th, 1898.

3. The Calcutta mail-train reaches Nalhati at 9-30 P.M., and the down train much earlier. The Azimganj train, however, starts at 10-30 P.M., after an unnecessary delay of an hour and more, and is detained at wayside stations so long that it never reaches its destination before one or two in the morning, much to the inconvenience of passengers.

4. There is no water-closet in the first and second-class carriages.

SANJIVANI,
July 2nd, 1898.

16. A correspondent writes in the *Sanjivani* of the 2nd July that on the night of the 15th June last, Babu Banwari Lal Goswami of Santipur was waiting for the Goalundo mail-train at the Ranaghat station, along with many other passengers, when the booking-clerk came into the waiting-room, he worse for liquor, and sought to catch hold of a public woman there. Failing in this, he went away, but soon after, when Babu Banwari Lal was fetching some sweets for his family, he re-entered the waiting-room and tried to drag him out by force. But for the intervention of some people there, Banwari Babu would have received very rough treatment. The matter was brought to the notice of the Assistant Station Master, and then the booking-clerk began abusing Banwari Babu in the most filthy language.

(h)—General.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
June 29th, 1898.

17. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 29th June observes that the employment of reckless persons, devoid of commonsense, on plague work increases the plague panic, and quotes the following story in support of this view:—One Bamandas Biswas, who left Chittagong recently to serve in the office of Messrs. Mackinnon, Mackenzie and Company at Rangoon, got fever and glandular swellings. While he lay in an unconscious state he was removed to hospital as a plague-suspect and thrown as one who was dead into a *nala* the next night. The *nala* emptied itself into the sea, and the patient was being carried down by the current, when his body struck against a rock. In the midst of a heavy shower he regained consciousness, but found himself so numbed as to be unable to rise. He was rescued the next morning by some way-farers, who removed him to the General Hospital, where he recovered in a few days.

The editor remarks that it would have been all over with him if, in pursuance of the Calcutta plague regulations, the body of this man had been cremated the moment he was considered to have died.

BANKURA DARPAN,
July 1st, 1898.

18. The jurisdiction of the Raipur post office in the Bankura district being very wide and its income small, some villages under it, says the *Bankura Darpan* of the 1st July, are served only once in every 10, 15, or 20 days.

This delay in the delivery of letters from this post-office leads people not to trust their correspondence to it, and that is why its income falls. Invitation letters do not reach the addressees till long after the ceremony for which they were issued has been over; notices of appeals do not also ordinarily arrive till the appeals are over. Many people are, therefore, obliged to employ messengers where a letter or a post-card would have sufficed. Now that a post-office has been opened at Sarenga, the peon attached to it may daily serve Gurepara, Vikrampur, Gorgoreh, Chingree, Chantarh, Sudhadali, Amjhol, Sarula, and Salkea, and the work of the two post-men of Raipur may in this way be lightened.

SAMAY,
July 1st, 1898.

19. The *Samay* of the 1st July has the following:—

Plague diagnosis.

Opinion is not unanimous about the nature of the disease from which these patients are suffering. Eminent physicians of Calcutta say that the cases under notice are not new in Calcutta, but have been prevalent here for a long time. This being the case, it will be advisable to take steps to save Calcutta from the distress into which it has been thrown by the panic created by the plague regulations. Let a searching enquiry be made, let the blood of the so-called plague-patients who die be examined, let the local physicians be consulted. If their assertion proves true, let Calcutta be declared free from plague. It is quite probable that the doctors whom the Secretary of State has sent out to India are

experienced men and experts in the subject. But physicians like Dr. Sanders, Dr. Wallace and Dr. Russell are not quacks. Has their opinion no weight? We pray the Lieutenant-Governor to appoint a Medical Board and have the disease in question properly diagnosed by them. If the Medical Board declare that there is no plague in Calcutta, let the town be declared free from plague. Let every step be taken to improve the sanitation of the town, but let segregation, which is very nearly proving the ruin of Calcutta be abolished.

20. The plague officers, writes the *Hitavadi* of the 1st July, have invented a new theory. They say that plague cases are being concealed in Calcutta. The other day

The plague officers.

Dr. Clemow said, at a meeting of the Vigilance Committee of Ward No. 19, that the impression was gaining ground that plague cases were being concealed in Calcutta. This statement, unsupported as it is by any proof, has increased the panic. It has not yet been decided whether the cases declared by the plague officers as plague cases are true plague cases or not. There are people who say that real plague has not appeared in Calcutta and that the doctors are speaking a falsehood with the view of keeping their appointments secure—that, in fact, they are drawing upon their imagination to prove the existence of plague cases with the object of serving their own selfish ends. As a consequence of all this, the Government may make arrangements for house-to-house inspection by the police.

21. The *Statesman*, writes the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 2nd July, plainly says that the object of segregation is not so much to save the life of the patient segregated as to save those who are not infected. This view, warranted though it be by western science, is rather preposterous in the eye of the Hindu. In the opinion of the Hindu, no one has the right to cause pain or suffering to any one even for the good of millions of people. None but a Hindu, however, will be able to appreciate this.

The purpose of segregation.

22. Referring to the action of the Magistrate of Barisal, who summoned the editor of the *Barisal Hitaishi* to his presence and asked him to explain how he got at the results of the University Entrance Examination before their publication in the *Gazette*, the *Sanjivani* of the 2nd July observes as follows:—

In view of the powers with which Magistrates have been armed by the new Sedition Act, journalism is no longer a safe or pleasant occupation in India. If the editors of newspapers have to render explanations to Magistrates in every trivial matter, they cannot possibly write with freedom. Are committees to be formed in Bengal on the lines followed in Bombay, for the suppression of newspapers?

23. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 3rd July makes the following suggestions for the solution of the currency question:—

The currency question.

When it is well known that fluctuations in exchange are due only to transactions in Council drafts, some good may be expected to result from a restricted use of such drafts. Let home remittances be sent from India in rupees, which may be sold in England at the current rate of silver, and, instead of being melted down, may be circulated like shillings. When the coins of other countries are current in India, it cannot be that the coin of one part of Her Majesty's dominions will not find currency in another. In the same manner, let English merchants remit money to India in sovereigns. This will eventually bring about an equilibrium. If a gold currency is thus established in India and a silver currency in England, there will no longer be any exchange fluctuations. As we do not object to purchase silver worth no more than 10 annas at 16 annas, so the English people will not probably object to pay more for a silver coin than they do now.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

24. Writing about the disastrous effects of the recent floods in the Damodar, a correspondent of the *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 28th June invites the attention of the Magistrate of Burdwan to the urgent necessity of repairing the *bund* at Natu, in order to avoid the possibility of the village being

A broken Damodar *bund* in the Burdwan district.

HITAVADI,
July 1st, 1898.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
July 2nd, 1898.

SANJIVANI,
July 2nd, 1898.

DACCA PRAKASH,
July 3rd, 1898.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
June 28th, 1898.

again submerged. It is said that the villagers have raised subscriptions and are willing to meet half the cost of repair.

HINDU RANJIKA,
June 29th, 1898.

25. The *Hindu Ranjika* of the 29th June has received information from the interior of the Rajshahi district that while, owing to excessive rainfall, the *aman* crop has been destroyed, the growth of *aus*, too, has been in some

Crop prospects in the Rajshahi district.

places retarded.

SANSODHINI,
June 29th, 1898.

26. The *Sansodhini* of the 29th June complains of distress in Chittagong. Crops have rotted in many parts of the district. The Chittagong Association has sent agents into the interior with money and with instructions to

The distress in Chittagong increasing.

report the condition of the district and help the needy. It is to be hoped that the Government, too, will come to the rescue of the suffering people. It is a very bad case indeed. Relief is being freely given since October last, but the distress is increasing instead of decreasing. In November and December no death from starvation was known to have occurred, but deaths from that cause are now being talked about. How long will this state of things continue? How long will people continue to depend upon public and private charity for their food and clothing? Is there no way out of this difficulty? In our opinion, distressed people should be employed on works of public utility, and relief centres should be opened for the purpose of distributing gratuitous relief to those who are unable to work.

JYOTI,
June 30th, 1898.

27. The *Jyoti* of the 30th June has the following:—

An appeal on behalf of the distressed people of Chittagong.

The articles on the distress in Chittagong, published in this paper, have drawn the kind attention of our popular Lieutenant-Governor, Sir John Woodburn. He has, we hear, sanctioned additional grants of money and instructed the Commissioner to relieve the distressed people. This information gives us inexpressible pleasure even in the midst of the prevailing distress. It gives us great pleasure to think that, through the kindness of the authorities, hundreds of people, who have been reduced to skeleton and are on the verge of death will be saved from starvation. What can we give our Lieutenant-Governor in exchange for his kindness? We give him our sincerest thanks and pray to God to promote his welfare.

Let us hope that the local authorities will do their best to remove the distress of the poor people. It is a regret that relief arrangements are being delayed. It is a month since the Sub-Inspector of Bailchhari was ordered to make an enquiry into the condition of the people of that village and the villages near it. He made an enquiry, but Pratap Babu, the Inspector has been instructed to make a further enquiry, and we hear that the District Engineer also will make an enquiry. If enquiry and investigation take up so much time, when will the relief come and how will the starving people be saved? We came to understand that the authorities had become suspicious of the conduct of certain agents who had been entrusted with the task of distributing relief. If so much time is now taken to remove the cause of suspicion, it will certainly go hard with the people. There are generous and large-hearted people in the district who may be safely entrusted with the task of distributing relief. The Government will not, moreover, find it difficult to adopt other means of distributing relief. But whatever the measures that are adopted, let them be adopted as speedily as possible.

We also appeal to the leading and influential men of the district and request them to try their best to relieve the distress of their suffering countrymen. It is no doubt the will of God that men of means and influence should help their neighbours. Around them live dumb, ignorant people, who do not know how they are to relieve their distress, or that there are men to whom they may go for protection and relief. Helpless, they fast and find relief in death. Those who, born among these people, have attained power and influence and greatness should employ all their resources to promote their welfare. If you have money spend it in feeding the hungry. If you have it not bring the condition of the suffering multitude to the notice of the authorities. The authorities are always prepared to relieve the distress of starving people, but it is impossible for them to know who require and who do not require their help. If you do not acquaint the authorities with the condition of your countrymen,

if you fail to distribute the relief which is granted by the authorities among those who really need it, and if through your negligence and indifference your poor neighbours die from starvation, everlasting shame shall seize your name: you will appear as great sinners in the eye of God.

28. A correspondent of the same paper complains of the prevalence of distress in Mahatpur, near Patiya in the Chittagong district. Of the fifty-three families living in the

Distress in Chittagong.

village, only twelve get a meal every day. About thirteen or fourteen families get a meal once in two or three days. The starving people are living upon such vegetables as *lau* and *kumra*, of which there has been a bumper crop. Here is an instance to prove the keenness of the distress. One day three female beggars came to the house of one Jatra Mohan De. There were three rotten *laus* in the compound. They got hold of them and greedily fell to this miserable dinner. The food-stuffs are not so very dear or scarce. It is scarcity of money which is the cause of the prevailing distress. People have sold off everything they had and have nothing left wherewith to buy two meals a day. The cultivators having eaten up their seeds have not the means to cultivate their lands. They are seeking other employments but where are employments to be had? The Government closed relief works on the ground that people were flocking to Arracan, and did not want employment on relief works; but it is mistaken. Those who went to Arracan in search of employment have been disappointed. Relief is badly wanted. Let *taccavi* advances be made to the raiyats and let a list of starving people be made through the leading and influential men of the villages. Here is a list of a few who stand in need of speedy relief:—

- (1) Prankrishna De, father's name, Ramjay De, of Mahatpur. Family of three men and three women. The men willing to work.
- (2) Ramsevak De, son of late Pelaram De. Family of three. *Taccavi* wanted.
- (3) Basanta Kumar De, son of Pelaram. Family of three. *Taccavi* wanted.
- (4) Akhil Chandra De, son of Kailas Chandra De. Family of three. *Taccavi* wanted.
- (5) Ramdas Chakravarti, Uma Charan Chakravarti, Prasanna Kumar Sen, Sarat Chandra Sen, Pares Nath Sen, Srimati Barada, Ramtanu De. Relief wanted.
- (6) Nimai Charan De, Sarat Chandra De, Ramkanta De, Ram Krishna De. Willing to work.

There are many other besides these, who will take the publication of their names as an insult.

Another correspondent of the same paper writes as follows:—

On the 20th June last, I came across a woman lying in the Banyarghona *beel* on the north of village Saikhkhil, in the Chittagong district. The woman told me in a faltering voice that she had been starving for several days and had been out begging, when her strength failed her near where she was lying. I tried to bring her to my house, but could not do so without help. I went home and returned with help within a few minutes but only to see the poor woman dead. Her name was Zebunnissa. She was about thirty and belonged to Jaldi, a neighbouring village. People were so long living upon greens and vegetables, but these, too, have been destroyed by the rains. Here is a list of those who do not get one meal once in two days:—

1. Kailas Chandra, son of Ramsankar, family of five.
2. Madanmohan, son of Dhaniram, family of six.
3. Srimati Radhika, family of four.
4. Ram Sundar De, son of Ramjay, family of six.
5. Parbati, a widow.
6. Ramdas, son of Ramjay, family of three.
7. Srimati Purani, with a girl.

29. After the late Chittagong cyclone, writes the same paper, it was proposed to suspend the collection of revenue in the Nayabad *mahal* and to remit it altogether in many cases. Mr. Allen, the late Settlement Officer of

The Nayabad *mahal* in the distress.

JYOTI,
June 30th, 1898.

JYOTI.

JYOTI.

Chittagong promised to report in favour of the distressed people of Nayabad. They are, however, at present quite in the dark as to what has been done with regard to the proposal. Depending upon the proposed remission of taxation, many zamindars have suspended collection. Many, again, are put to great trouble and expense on account of the uncertainty of their position. One, for instance, hears that his estate is on sale for arrears of revenue. He comes to town and is fleeced by the amla. No one knows where and how he stands. It is to be hoped that Mr. Allen's recommendation will be given effect to by the Government. It should at least let the public know its decision.

BANKURA DARPAN,
July 1st, 1898.

30. The *Bankura Darpan* of the 1st July requests Raja Sir Sourindra Mohan Tagore of Pathuriaghata, Calcutta, to help the tenants on his Ambikanagar Estate, whose houses were washed away in the recent floods in the Bankura district, with timber from his Shyamsundarpur Pargana to enable them to rebuild their houses.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

DACCA GAZETTE,
July 4th, 1898.

31. The *Dacca Gazette* of the 4th July has the following:—

What the policy of the native press should be.

A little reflection will show that the press in India possesses no prestige or influence. The public whom it professes to represent do not support or encourage it. The Government which cannot do without it and will find it impossible to rule the country without its help rewards it for its service with rebuke and complaint. The question of questions with the press in India is, how to win the good graces of the rulers. There is a class of journalists who think that the only way to this is to support it through thick and thin and sing to its tune in season and out of season. It is needless to say, however, that many have been disappointed by pursuing this line of policy. The example of the *Pioneer* and the *Englishman* ought to teach their brother journalists how chimerical it is to hope to earn the Government's favour by flattery and sycophancy. The *Pioneer* and the *Englishman*, who are in the habit of supporting the Government through thick and thin, have received a cold shoulder from it in the matter of the currency reform. The Anglo-Indian papers and the Anglo-Indian associations have all strenuously protested against the currency policy of the Government, but in vain. It is quite clear, therefore, that a blind advocacy of the Government is not at all sure to raise a paper in its estimation or to increase its prestige in the eyes of the authorities.

There are native papers who are trying their best to vie with Anglo-Indian papers in supporting and flattering the officials, no doubt under the impression that such conduct will enable them to ingratiate themselves with the Government and place them on the safe side of the sedition law. We pity these misguided papers. Has not the treatment accorded by the Government to the *Indian Daily News* opened their eyes? Let them remember that however meanly may they flatter the Government or however uncompromisingly may they support its policy, the Government will not fail to prosecute them for sedition whenever it will feel the necessity for so doing. Why, then, this vain flattery, this hollow show of loyalty? Are the authorities fools that they are unable to rate your expressions of loyalty at their true worth? Englishmen love liberty. It is their nature to respect independence of spirit and to hate flattery and cowardice.

Of the native papers who have made it a point to support the officials through thick and thin, the first and foremost is the *Rast Gaftar* of Bombay, who is opposing all native movements and is thereby drawing the applause of our enemies. The *Bangavasi* of Calcutta is following in the footsteps of the *Rast Gaftar* and has won high-class certificates from the *Pioneer*. The *East of Dacca* is trying to follow in the wake of the *Bangavasi*, but has not yet succeeded in drawing the attention of the authorities.

There are people who think that criticism of the official policy is sure to incur official displeasure. This may be true as regards some officials; but it is our impression that officials, as a class, hate flattery and welcome bold protests against tyranny and oppression. They never fail to carefully read the writings of truthful and courageous papers. It is a mistake to think that the officials do not read a paper like the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*. The fact is that

the authorities carefully read a paper like the *Patrika*, in which they expect to find a criticism of their policy and neglect to read a paper like the *Hindoo Patriot*, in which they do not expect to find anything more than the echoes of official thought and opinion.

URIYA PAPERS.

32. The *Utkaldipika* of the 7th May does not approve of the policy of Government to make the municipalities in India pay the cost of plague operations, and suggests that the Imperial Government ought to bear a fair proportion of the same, as the municipalities are very poor and are hardly in a position to combat single-handed an epidemic like the bubonic plague.

UTKALDIPIKA,
May 7th, 1898.

33. The same paper is glad to learn that at a meeting of the Orissa Association it was decided to appoint a special committee to enquire into the management of the Puri Temple and report the results of the enquiry to the Association within a prescribed period. The committee have been further requested to suggest measures by which existing defects or evils, if any, may be removed.

UTKALDIPIKA.

34. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* of the 11th May is informed that cholera carried off a large number of men and women from Gopalganj and other villages in the Balasore district. Its contemporary of the *Samvadavahika* of the 12th May states that about sixty-two men and women in the villages of Ransahi, Remuna, Kurunia and Somenathpur, in the Balasore district, died of cholera.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
May 11th, 1898.

35. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* of the 11th May is glad to learn that Samanta Rajnarayan Das of Balasore has agreed to bear the cost of sinking seven wells in the Puri district for the benefit of the villages that are in sore need of drinking water.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
May 11th, 1898.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 9th July 1898.

